

## Attachment 6. Program Preferences

**Program Preferences/Statewide Priorities: (Gold Village)** Project contributes to three Program Preferences and four Statewide Priorities, including addressing critical water supply needs of a DAC.

**Include regional projects or programs:** Four regional IRWMP goals are addressed by this project: 1) Ensure an adequate and reliable water supply, 2) Protect public safety through emergency and drought preparedness, 3) Address climate vulnerabilities and reduce GHGs, and 4) Support equitable distribution of resources to DACs. With the proposed upgrade in infrastructure (new water tank), rebate programs aimed at water conservation, monitoring to assure progress toward targets, and strong local support for proposed actions, this project has a **high** level of certainty in meeting program preferences. The breadth and magnitude of program preferences are nominal, but since the project qualifies as addressing critical water supply needs of a DAC, magnitude and breadth are urgent and critical on a local level.

**Addresses critical water supply needs of DACs within the Region:** In July 2013, the community's water tank was emptied by demand exceeding storage capacity. Cumulative daily use of 36,000 gpd on average, with even greater peak summer usage, exceeds daily well production of 31,200 gpd. The water system is further jeopardized because it relies on one primary and two backup wells within the same fractured bedrock aquifer. From April-June 2014, depth to groundwater dropped precipitously in the primary source well due to overdrafting and drought. This prompted an emergency declaration in July 2014, still in effect, that prohibits all outdoor use of potable water. A proposed 250,000-gallon water storage tank would provide minimum daily storage requirements to meet both peak demand and potential system outages and emergencies. Water conservation would be promoted via indoor and outdoor rebate programs projected to save 11.7 acre-feet annually, along with energy savings of 26,616 kWh (17%)/year and related greenhouse gas reductions. Potential new ground and surface water supplies also would be explored.

### Statewide Priorities

**Drought preparedness:** This project contributes to a sustainable water supply and reliability during water shortages by: 1) promoting water conservation via indoor and outdoor rebate programs; 2) improving landscape irrigation efficiencies via a turf removal rebate program; 3) achieving long-term water-use reduction via rebate programs; and 4) helping achieve efficient groundwater basin management by reducing annual withdrawals on the current source aquifer, and potentially distributing withdrawals to other aquifers or surface water sources.

**Use and reuse water more efficiently:** Stakeholders adopted goals and objectives in the Yuba IRWM that support water conservation, retrofitting and developing new water supply infrastructure where necessary, and assisting DACs in project development and implementation. This project is a direct result of addressing IRWMP goals and objectives, as it will conserve water through rebate programs, install needed water supply storage infrastructure, and engage a DAC in conservation and related groundwater use efficiency. The combined conservation aspects and upgraded supply system will allow the CSD to manage the groundwater basin more efficiently.

**Climate change response actions:** The IRWMP's regional vulnerability assessment identified the following vulnerabilities to climate change: reduced water supply reliability, declining snowpack (and thus diminished groundwater recharge) as a risk of supply uncertainty, increased occurrence of drought, and increased groundwater extraction. The project will help the Region respond to climate change impacts both by providing a more reliable source of water supply and by increasing the available water supply through conservation activities. In addition, the project will result in annual energy use and GHG reductions.

**Ensure distribution of benefits:** This project equitably distributes benefits by involving and serving the Gold Village/River Highlands DAC through the IRWM process. The project also offsets the costs of conservation for those who might not otherwise be able to afford to participate, achieves water conservation and greater energy efficiency, and contributes to the district's economic sustainability. This project will help sustainably provide customers with safe, clean, affordable and accessible drinking water to meet basic human needs, thus addressing the Human Right to Water Policy. Without the project, the community service district will be unlikely to meet the policy in the near future.